



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH

General Manager



2025 Work Plan and Budget

Work is well underway on our work plan and associated budget for next year. We know at this point that we are facing a pretty good increase in wholesale power rates from WAPA and our Basin Electric for 2025. Increases in

costs other than power supply look to continue increasing next year. We will be doing a cost-of-service study to ensure that we are assigning costs equitably across our different rate classes. Anyway, we will have proposed rate adjustments for 2025 ready for the board to look at by the end of the year.

Harvest Underway

Please stress safety in all aspects of your harvest activities again this year. Be mindful of power lines when moving big pieces of equipment around. Contact with power lines is our main safety concern. If you do happen to hit poles or guy wires with farm equipment, please let us know so we can fix those problems right away. That is what we are here for.

Please Think About our Power Poles When Burning Ditches

Burning ditches has caused much damage to expensive power poles over the years. Please be careful. If you do accidentally burn poles, please let us know so that they can be replaced.

October is Cooperative Month

As we move into the October harvest it reminds us of the role cooperatives play in our lives, particularly in rural America. Cooperatives operating today in the U.S. number over 20,000 in many different business and service sectors. Cooperatives have thrived in part because the concept is so fundamental: people banding together to form an independent business entity to serve the needs of the collective membership.

Cooperatives hold dear to solid core values which are not present in most other business models. These values are geared for the members and by the members we serve. Every member is part owner of this company. As a member-owner you have a say. Your board members you elect are your neighbors and conduct your business in your best interest. We are self-regulated and our rates are set to cover operating costs and produce a margin. All of that margin is eventually retired and returned back to you in cash. The employees of your cooperative are right here working and living in your community. When the lights go out, they are right here to do what it takes to get them back on as quickly as they safely can.

Harvest Safety: Staying Safe Around Power Lines

This harvest season, remember to prioritize safety around power lines. Operators of large equipment like combines, grain augers and tractors need to be aware of the danger posed by power lines near fields and along rural roads. The size and height of modern farming machinery can make accidental contact with power lines more likely – with potentially fatal consequences.

The location of power lines should be taken into account when planning field operations, especially when moving or raising equipment like augers, grain trucks and even ladders. It is crucial for farm workers and equipment operators to remain vigilant during the long, demanding hours in the field. Electricity from power lines can arc, or jump, to equipment that gets too close, making physical contact unnecessary for an electrical accident to occur.

Aside from the immediate danger to life, contacting power lines can result in fires, equipment damage and power outages that can affect a farm and the surrounding community. E two eighteen zero two Educating workers and making safety a habitual part of the harvest process is essential for protecting lives and livelihoods.

Safety Tips for Working Near Power Lines:

- 1) Know the location of power lines:** Know where overhead power lines are before you head out to the field and have a plan to stay far from them.
- 2) Keep a safe distance:** Maintain a minimum of 10 feet between equipment and power lines. Use a spotter when raising any equipment as it can be difficult to tell how close you are to overhead power lines from the controls.
- 3) Lower equipment when moving:** Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level—under 14 feet—before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can make it difficult to control raised equipment.
- 4) In case of contact, stay inside:** Know what to do and have a plan if you come in contact with an overhead power line. Except in the rare case of a fire, do not exit the equipment until utility workers have cut off electricity and confirmed it is safe to leave.



Find Your Location Number

If you find your location number in this newsletter, you will receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If no number is claimed before the 25th of the month, the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, we will start again at \$10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



Comparative Report

	Jan-Jul 2024	Jan-Jul 2023	Jan-Jul 2004
Kwh Purchased	131,972,035	132,466,084	74,137,681
Kwh Sold	125,317,628	125,228,879	68,485,182
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$6,698,154	\$6,614,424	\$1,913,437
Patronage Capital Margins	\$1,008,627	\$1,041,379	\$202,746
Reserve For Taxes	\$154,000	\$168,000	\$92,668
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	50.95	50.55	25.81
	July-24	July-23	July-04
Total Plant	\$101,443,742	\$95,894,114	\$36,990,567
Number of Active Services	5,308	5,312	5,237
Avg. Residential Bill	\$243.62	\$230.32	\$95.11
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,750	1,640	1,200
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,267	3,076	1,733
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	33,582	35,541	22,743

Congratulations to **Grant Veldt** who found his number and received \$40 (plus \$10 for being an Operation Round Up participant)! If you find your number, claim by the 25th of September to be eligible for:



Cold Weather Rule

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) helps protect and reconnect your heat from October 1st through April 30th. CWR protection is for residential customers only. All electric and natural gas companies must offer CWR protection. Different types of payment plans are available, depending on your household income. If you are having trouble keeping up with your winter heating bills, contact Minnesota Valley to sign up for a CWR payment plan. CWR protection ends on April 30th. If you still owe on your bill on April 30th, you may ask to continue your payment plan.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my heat be shut off in the winter?

YES. You must make and keep a CWR payment plan with your electric utility to receive protection between October 1st and April 30th. This is true for all residential customers, including senior citizens and families with young children. Payment plans can be established at any time during the CWR season. If the payment plan is broken, the electric company is not required to offer additional arrangements. If you are unable to agree on a payment amount, you may request an appeal from your electric company.

How do I sign up?

Contact your electric company and request a CWR payment plan. Once you make and keep a CWR payment plan, the utility will turn on your heat. As long as you make your payments, you are protected until April 30th.

What if I can't make my scheduled payment?

If you can't make your payments, call your utility immediately to make a new CWR payment plan. If you do not make your payments, your service may be shut off.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months. A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.



Your Electric Cooperative Needs Your Help

Your electric cooperative works hard to provide safe, reliable and convenient electrical power for you and your family. We also provide programs to help you use energy efficiently.

To help us plan for the future and determine what programs will benefit you most, we need your help.

This fall, we will be conducting a survey of our members. If you receive a survey, please help us by taking a few minutes to complete it. Your answers are very important, so respond as best as possible and return it promptly. A postage-paid return envelope is included for your convenience. The survey will also be available to complete online.



Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH

Member Services Manager

Electric Heat is Still a Good Value

Recent years have seen the cost of electricity go up, but electricity still stands as one of the best values we have today. We can accomplish so much for so little that we really need to think just what we can get done for the cost of that monthly bill. One of the things we can get done very economically is heating our homes and businesses. C two thirty-one zero three Minnesota Valley's electric and dual heat rates are very competitive in today's market. Even with the dip in fossil fuel prices, the cost to heat with electricity still remains low.

Electric heat rates, coupled with new technology and low interest loans, can make the installation of an electric heating system look very attractive. Minnesota Valley also offers 5% financing for up to \$15,000 on the installation of an electric heat system. If you are interested in the installation of an electric heat system or want to evaluate your current heating system, contact the Member Services Department for help today.

Get a Loan for that Equipment

Minnesota Valley offers low interest loans for energy conservation practices like weatherization, installation of windows, doors and insulation. Conditions of the loan are that you must be a member of Minnesota Valley REC,

have a good credit rating with Minnesota Valley and submit a credit application to our office. All applications are completely confidential and can be processed within a matter of days. A very reasonable rate of 5% simple interest is charged. Up to \$15,000 can be borrowed for a period of up to seven years. Over the years, these loans have enabled many people to do work to their homes at a very affordable rate.

In addition to energy conservation loans, Minnesota Valley also offers loans for the purchase and installation of electric heating and cooling products. The loan funds may be used for all types of electric heating equipment. Equipment may be purchased through Minnesota Valley or any heating, cooling or electrical contractor you choose. Replacement of outdated electrical wiring may also qualify for this loan program. Loan funds are available through Minnesota Valley to replace old wiring that you may not feel comfortable with. Meeting the conditions of the weatherization and equipment loans can also qualify you for financing of the replacement of unsafe wiring. Whatever loan you are interested in, please contact the Member Services Department for more information on these excellent programs. We can be reached during normal business hours at (320) 269-2163 or (800) 247-5051.

NOTICE: Make Sure Your Heat Meter is On

Minnesota Valley would like to remind all members on either our *electric* or *dual heat* rates, that the power must be turned on to your heat meter for it to operate properly. If the meter does not have power, you will not be getting your heat usage at a discounted rate. All electric heat installations have power supplied to the heat meter from your electrical service. If that meter power has been turned off, all of the KWhs that are used for heat **will be at our higher general rate.**

Please turn on your electric heat power and verify that your meter is operating. The meter is operating correctly if **electronic display is lit up.** Failure to verify that your meter is powered up may result in a higher electric bill than normal.



Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

24-Hour Telephone Answering

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